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Letter dated 1 September 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith an answer given by the spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to a question raised by the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) on 31 August 2017 as regards the fact that the US and its vassal forces rigged up a "presidential statement" of the Security Council condemning the intermediate-range strategic ballistic rocket launching drill of the Strategic Force of the Korean People's Army (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ja** Song Nam
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 1 September 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Answer given by the spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to a question raised by the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) on 31 August 2017

On August 30, the UNSC released a "presidential statement" distorting the truth as if the DPRK's launch of intermediate-range strategic ballistic rocket Hwasong-12 undermined regional peace and stability and caused grave security concerns around the world.

The DPRK categorically rejects the "presidential statement" of UNSC that flagrantly violated the right to self-defence of a sovereign state.

We had already warned the U.S. that we would be closely monitoring its conduct. The intermediate-range strategic ballistic rocket launching drill carried out by the Strategic Force of the KPA this time is only a curtain raiser to the resolute countermeasures to be taken against the U.S. as it responded to our warning by waging belligerent Ulji Freedom Guardian joint military exercises.

The said drill is the first step taken by the KPA in its Pacific operation and a meaningful prelude to restraining Guam, the front-line base for invasion.

The U.S. had denied the DPRK's proactive measures to defuse the extreme tension and acted with imprudence. It is another lesson learned by the DPRK that only actions speak to the U.S., not polite words.

The revolutionary armed forces of the DPRK shall conduct many more of ballistic rocket launching drill targeting the Pacific to further modernize and increase the actual combat efficiency of its strategic force.